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The Man Pinchot

A Character Sketch of the Popular Candidate

By Henry W. Shoemaker

(Reprint from the "Altoona Tribune")

When a man is nominated by a great party of men and women for the Governorship of the State richest in resources, and of most diverse strains of population, in our country, it arouses curiosity and concern. Everyone in hamlet or proletariat, villa or city mansion, wants to know something about "this man Pinchot"; in other words, "what manner of man he is". The following paragraphs were written by one who claims no degree of intimacy with him, nor special facility for observation, but who has worked with him and in the day's work has recorded these among many other favorable impressions.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE

When the writer first saw Gifford Pinchot it was on a bright morning in the late winter of 1914, the place Harrisburg, the occasion the presentation of a silver loving cup to the late Dr. J. T. Rothrock, "Father of Pennsylvania Forestry," by a group of admiring friends from all over the United States. Just before the luncheon commenced, a tall figure entered the room, in looks like a mural, by Puvis de Chavannes, of some Frankish King, with keen blue eyes, aquiline features, and handsome drooping blonde mustache. He gave the impression of a knightly figure of old; if not a king, a king's champion, in the present instance in the lists for the public's good. The best friend the American people as a whole have ever had. He was Gifford Pinchot, former forester of the United States, but then a private citizen of Milford, Pike County, Pennsylvania.

ANCESTRY

This resemblance to a Frankish King may be borne out in fact by his ancestry, which comes from Frankish or northern France and Flanders. The Pinchot family, Huguenots, originated at Arras in Picardy, that militant city which was almost demolished by the Germans in the World War, and not far from the birthplace, at St. Quentin, of Anthony Benezet, Quaker philanthropist, called by Benjamin Franklin the first citizen of Philadelphia in Revolutionary days. On his mother's side the name was originally Henne, in Flanders; later, when as Huguenots they were driven to England, it became Henno, and in New England, Eno. On both sides Gifford Pinchot is of Frankish stock, the blood of Charlemagne and Guynemer. He is Gothic rather than Gallic. The name Henne is also found in Pennsylvania along the Blue Mountains in western Berks County, possibly of the same stock, especially as the gifted political forecaster, Oliver D. Schock, of the Public Service Commission, tells us the Henne family have been Republicans for generations, in a Democratic district. Gifford Pinchot is and always has been a Republican.

EARLY LIFE

Gifford Pinchot's early life was spent in Pennsylvania on the Delaware River. He was born on August 11, 1865, and is old enough to recall having hunted the now extinct wild pigeons. His father and grandfather ran timber rafts to Philadelphia, kept store, were farmers. He is as typically and ruggedly American as was Abraham Lincoln. Both split rails and chopped wood in early life. Gifford Pinchot can swing an axe or marking hatchet today in a way that makes the average "woodsie" or "hick" green with envy and sit up and take notice.

RELIGION

A man's religion is inseparable from his early life. Gifford Pinchot's upbringing was essentially Christian, of the old-fashioned kind. At Yale College, he tells us, he overlooked many of the fields of athletic prowess, though like a militant Christian he was a member of the Freshman football team, and got his "numerals" to be President of the College Y. M. C. A., and conduct his own Bible class, which he did for four years. Gifford Pinchot is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and among his closest

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friends and admirers in Harrisburg is Rt. Rev. James H. Darlington, D. D., of the Harrisburg Diocese, a genial, kindly and democratic churchman, and, like Mr. Pinchot, a past president of the Huguenot Society of Pennsylvania.

EDUCATION

Gifford Pinchot's education was varied and cosmopolitan; it included a term at the district school near his Pike County home, private tutors, Yale College, and forestry schools in France, Germany, Switzerland and Austria. He was in school in Paris when the Communards were marched through the streets to be stood up against a wall and shot; he saw McMahon and Gambetta, and can recall the smoking ruins of the Tuileries. Those stirring scenes may have awakened at that early age his strong championing of the right. Yale and Princeton have shown their appreciation of his practical knowledge by making him Sc. D., while McGill University, Toronto, Canada, gave him the degree of LL. D. He was a "frat" man at Yale, belonging to Psi Upsilon, to which his arch-rival, Chief Justice W. H. Taft, also belonged, and to Skull and Bones. Gifford Pinchot is a living exemplar of "Yale Democracy."

CAREER IN PENNSYLVANIA

We will bridge many chapters of his nation-wide and world-wide activities to sketch briefly his career in Pennsylvania. In 1914, after his unsuccessful but valiant campaign for the Senatorship against Boies Penrose, it looked as if his political career had gone into eclipse. Governor Burmbaugh, despite the solicitation of his friends, omitted naming him a member of the State Agricultural Board. He was criticized because he stumped for J. Denny O'Neill. There were some who forgot to name Gifford Pinchot among noted Pennsylvanians. In 1919, after an effort was made to put life into the fast-dying mechanism of the State Forestry Department at Harrisburg, and it failed, and the reactionaries were sitting tight behind their political bulwarks, Governor Sproul surprised the Commonwealth by announcing his appointment of Gifford Pinchot as a member of the Forest Commission. He appeared at the first meeting after his appointment with an open mind. He heard a lot, but he verified all he heard. Then he opened out. The genial, affable, smiling gentleman was a grim fighter. It was there he showed his Frankish blood, the blood of the amiable poilu who could crack a joke and eat a chocolate bar

and then eviscerate a trench full of Germans with his saw-tooth bayonet. "They shall not pass." After he had his facts he demanded that the department be cleaned up and become business-like; if not, he would wield the broom himself, and he did. It was a whirlwind, knock-down, pitch-out affair, but Pennsylvania emerged with the finest Forestry Department, not only in the United States, but the world.

A SAVER AND SALVAGER OF MEN

There are many stand-patters and office-holders who say that if Gifford Pinchot is elected Governor there will be a cleaning out "on the hill." Not so; there would only be in the cases of glaring incompetents; but any man with an ounce of decency or brains has a chance to stay if he can make good. Gifford Pinchot wants good men. When he took charge of the Forestry Department, a couple of hot-heads fell over themselves to hand in their resignations, but the rest stayed on, waiting for whatever might be their fate. The new Chief Forester surveyed his personnel, and began a series of shifts and re-arrangements that soon put every man in his proper place, where he could do the maximum good that was in him for himself and for the Commonwealth. The State Forestry Department today is run by the same men who headed it during the old regime, with the one or two exceptions noted above. And there is no abler group of men in the whole United States today. The chief trouble with that old forestry bureau was "misplaced man-power." A good man need have no fear with Gifford Pinchot, and a poor one only that he may be catapulted into a better job for which he is better suited. "Success is only finding the work we like best," is one of his oft-repeated expressions.

THE SALARY RAISER

Candidate McSparran has been rampaging about the State talking "salary raiser," a thing which most folks don't understand, and some, when it was brought up previous to the May primary, got considerably "het up" over it. We will now tell the story from beginning to end, for if there is any culprit, or any one to be blamed, the writer of these lines is one of the guilty, and offers himself for punishment.

When Gifford Pinchot took charge of the Pennsylvania Department of Forestry it was to be only for a few months, to pave the way and "get things ready" for Deputy Commissioner Robert

Y. Stuart. He found men who had been in the Department for twenty years were receiving salaries about on a par with cash girls in a department store. They only held on because they loved the work in God's outdoors. As best he could he strove to readjust those "salaries" to a living wage. In 1921 he got through a new forestry law raising the salaries, including that of Commissioner, but he expected to be out of office, and in private life, six months before said salary raiser went into effect, and never profit by it himself. Then some of his friends, like the author of this sketch; Major Stuart, the efficient Deputy; the late Dr. J. T. Rothrock; Hon. Edward Bailey, and Mrs. Mary Flinn Lawrence, of the Commission, stepped in. Gifford Pinchot was accomplishing such a big work in his fight and propaganda against forest fires that they urged him to put his resignation back in the desk. They had him shoving it back until it looked like a U. S. passport in Europe in war time. Meanwhile the salary raiser went into effect, but Gifford Pinchot profited not one cent by it. He took three vacations without pay—one to California, one to Wisconsin, and another to Martha's Vineyard, and when he was on the job divided the surplus with underpaid employes of the Department and other forestry extension projects. He realized he was needed to make the Department the best on earth, especially as Major Stuart, his successor, was one of the chief instigators in his remaining. He again discarded his pay envelope after announcing his candidacy for Governor in the "primaries," and shortly after resigned altogether. Gifford Pinchot's "hang over" after the original date set for his resignation has made a political "squeak" for McSparren; but it was worth ten million dollars to the people of Pennsylvania to enable the premier forester to perfect his program and policies and fight the fire fiend that destroys millions of forest property annually.

HIS REPUTED WEALTH

An intimate friend of Gifford Pinchot states that he has known times when the great conservationist was hard pressed for $500. Not that he is an extravagant man, for he is the reverse; he is most modest in his mode of living and dress, is absolutely unostentatious, but he spends large sums of money for the public good, like financing the U. S. Conservation Association in its fight to save the water powers in the west for the public, and to endow the Yale Forest School in memory of his father, the State tuberculosis campaign, and many other admirable benefactions.

A BUSINESS MAN

If Gifford Pinchot had not been devoted to the public welfare and conservation he would have been a great leader of big business. His is essentially a business mind. The late George W. Perkins, once a J. P. Morgan partner, often told the writer's father that "T. R." said that "G. P.," as he called him, "could see through a business problem quicker than that keenest of the younger Morgan partners, Col. Robert Bacon." Gifford Pinchot's father, the late James W. Pinchot, of Milford, was a self-made business man of varied interests, and several uncles were active commercially in various parts of Pike County; his grandfather, Amos R. Eno, a leading financier of his day and generation. Gifford Pinchot's business interests today are many, is associated with as many types of investments as Governor Sproul, but despite this, "forestry" is called his hobby, whereas it is only one of his many worthy activities. If elected Governor, Gifford Pinchot will give the State of Pennsylvania a live business administration.

HIS LABOR VIEWS

No Governor will ever be closer to labor than Gifford Pinchot, if the voters choose him next November. He knows the workers personally and intimately. He has swung an axe with them, tramped with them, and bunked with them. He is honest and sincere, and if there are to be labor troubles in the future, labor will be sure of the Roosevelt square deal. Gifford Pinchot is "human;" he is not "stuck up" with pride of place and power. He is as simple and self-effacing as Lincoln, the other great toiler. He wants to hear labor's side, because he feels with it and knows its tremendous influence on the development of America. In his great speech at the Court House, Lock Haven, September 29, he said: "I am one of those who believe in collective bargaining." He will be the first Labor Governor in the United States.

WITH THE FARMERS

Gifford Pinchot has been a practical farmer since boyhood, a fruit grower and stock raiser. He is an old-time Granger. After the so-called "old-liners" had dug his political grave and were getting ready the embalming fluid and picking the flowers, the farmers were his fast friends. They were the first to welcome him back to political life in 1919, shortly after his appointment to the State Forest Commission, by inviting him to address the Grangers'

Picnic at Centre Hall. He received a great ovation there and vote of confidence. He received a greater one when the invitation was returned in 1922, and he began his intensive campaign of the State by again addressing the Centre Hall gathering of Grangers.

AS A FRIEND

Gifford Pinchot appreciates friendship, and in turn never forgets a friend. He goes out of his way to keep alive associations with persons who helped him, no matter how small the service in previous campaigns. There is no ingratitude or "interested motives" in his friendships. All is pure gold.

AS A FIGHTER

Gifford Pinchot has attacked wrong and injustice in every form. No vested interest, if corrupt, is too powerful or too firmly intrenched. In this fighting aspect he reminds one of the late Irish leader, Charles Stewart Parnell; physically he is very like Sydney Hall's portrait of the great American-Irish statesman. Gifford Pinchot's followers are as loyal as Parnell's, and have followed him through vicissitudes even much more disheartening, into prosperity; whether it be the Water Power Trust, the timber grabbers, the oil kings or the mining barons, Gifford Pinchot has met and vanquished them single-handed, and kept the public domain for the public.

IN THE WORLD WAR

Shortly after the German hordes crossed the Belgian frontier in 1914, Gifford Pinchot, actuated probably as much by his broad love of humanity as his Flemish blood, hurried to Belgium to the aid of the homeless refugees. Aided by his wife, he was performing a notable work for civilization, when General von Kluck, with his usual obtuseness, having heard that Gifford Pinchot's sister was married to the British envoy to neutral Holland, ordered his expulsion from Belgium. From the United States he was able to direct important relief work through the agencies of the Belgian Relief Commission and the Red Cross. Later on, when the war clouds were hovering about the United States, and Colonel Roosevelt was organizing his famous division, he selected Gifford Pinchot as a member of his personal staff and Colonel of the first Forestry Regiment. Gifford Pinchot is an honorary member of the American Legion Post at

Milford, Pike County. He has been an active worker for adequate compensation for disabled ex-service men ever since the Armistice.

AS AN OUTDOOR MAN

When Gifford Pinchot was personally investigating reports of inefficiency in the State Forestry Department in 1919, he visited every location where alleged illegal or wasteful cutting was going on. Incidentally he had to climb some of the highest mountain peaks in Pennsylvania, in midsummer, proving himself an apt Alpinist. Doffing coat and vest, he led his group of investigators, and never tarried until he had satisfied himself as to the correctness of the reports. Praise of Gifford Pinchot as a sportsman came from an unexpected source—Senator Penrose, his old adversary, in 1920. The Senator had visited the giant timber on Swift Run, Snyder County, now known as Snyder-Middleswarth Park, with Col. W. C. McConnell and U. S. Judge C. B. Witmer, and fearing lest the titanic hemlocks be cut or burned, he turned to one of his companions saying, "Tell Pinchot to make a park out of these grand trees and save them; he can do it, he is all right. Pinchot and I were members of the same hunting club in the West, the Boone and Crockett Club. To belong one has to have killed several species of big game; Pinchot was one of the best shots we had and is a sportsman and a gentleman."

AN ALL AROUND EXECUTIVE

No man in public life today has had a wider range of executive experience. As Chief Forester of the U. S., he handled vast problems involving millions of dollars, on an area almost as big as Europe. As chairman of President Roosevelt's Conservation Commission in 1908, of the National Farm Life Committee, of the National Board of Farm Organizations, of the State Tuberculosis Campaign of the Red Cross, of the State Legislative Committee of the Grange, as President of the U. S. Conservation Association, as a leading Rotarian and Y. M. C. A. man, as chairman of the U. S. Commission to end the pollution of rivers and streams, as member of the Pennsylvania Constitutional Convention, as business man and executor of large estates, as instructor of forestry at Yale College, as author of important books on forestry, as President of the Huguenot Society, as Commissioner and later Chief Forester of Pennsylvania, his has been an

unparalleled record of successful achievements. That he can unscramble the "mess" at Harrisburg and make Pennsylvania solvent goes without saying. He is a trained executive and business man, ready for a big job.

"WALK IN"

Gifford Pinchot thinks for himself; he cannot be cajoled, coerced, or influenced. There is nothing in his private or business life to make him subservient to any person or interest. Yet he wants advice, and is glad to shape his policies by it. Under the old regime it was as hard to see the Chief Forestry Commissioner of Pennsylvania as the Czar of all the Russias, but when Gifford Pinchot took the helm he kept the office door open and had a sign "Walk In" tacked on the lintel. This brought in a stream of visitors of all stripes, a self-constituted "cabinet" of advisers. His office and ante-rooms were often choked with strangers. His friends feared it would check the efficacy of his work, but he only laughed, saying, "I can work more thoroughly when I get advice from all quarters; it aids me to make up my mind quickly. It is a diversion to meet new faces. Tell them all to walk in." In addition, he often sent for persons interested in forestry to help him form his conclusions.

HANDLES OWN CORRESPONDENCE

Unlike some other men high in public life in Pennsylvania today Gifford Pinchot reads all his correspondence, and answers every letter personally, and with care. No matter if it is from a millionaire or a humble seeker after some bit of information, it is all the same. Mr. Pinchot in the finest sense is a "public servant."

AS A SPEAKER AND CAMPAIGNER

While Gifford Pinchot lays no store on his abilities as a spellbinder, he is a very convincing extemporaneous speaker. He can tell a joke effectively and always holds the interest of his audiences. He never talks too long. He states that public speaking is an effort for him and he looks forward to his appearance on the platform with trepidation. Yet he always drives his points home and can size up his auditors admirably. He is an indefatigable campaigner, tiring out his junior associates and newspaper men. His voice is not always of the best, but he puts strains on it that no other candidate would attempt, so anxious is he not to disappoint gatherings where he is scheduled to speak.

AS HE APPEARS TO HIS ASSOCIATES

Gifford Pinchot never makes a promise he does not intend to keep. He is not a "jollier." While he tries to grant all reasonable demands when a request is impossible he can say "no" cheerfully, and means it. He is frank in criticism when any of his associates are at fault, but ready to praise and encourage. He is sure to bring out any latent ability or goodness in the people who work with him. No one could work with Gifford Pinchot and be mean, petty or untruthful. As Major Stuart says, "He has a great constructive influence on men." As Augustus Thomas said of late Charles Frohman, "To be with him was to be decent" holds good with Gifford Pinchot. He is a big, clean, honorable man, with whom it is a privilege to work as an associate. He will raise the moral tone of Pennsylvania politics and civic life if chosen as Governor.

HIS FAVORITE NOVEL

Gifford Pinchot is an omnivorous reader of all types of books. His favorite novel is "Peter Ibbetson," which gives an inkling as to the high idealism of his literary predilections. He is also fond of Robert Louis Stevenson's romances, and if you look at him closely there is much of "R. L. S." in his general appearance. He says that Colonel Roosevelt's favorite out-door book was Jules Gerard's "Adventures With Lions in Algeria." which remarkable volume, read in early boyhood, formed the impetus which sent "Strongheart" into the wilds of British East Africa years later as a "faunal naturalist."

HOME LIFE

The home life of Gifford Pinchot is ideal, married as he is to an out-door woman of similar tastes and aspirations for the public good. Mrs. Pinchot is an enthusiastic horsewoman, a mountain climber and golfer. They are devoted to their son, Gifford Bryce Pinchot, now seven years of age a sturdy and promising lad. Both Gifford Pinchot and his wife were active workers for Woman's Suffrage long before it became a popular issue.

ROOSEVELT'S ESTIMATE

"The most useful man in public life in my time" was the verdict of the far-seeing and discerning Colonel. Pennsylvania is lucky to be able to commandeer the services of such a public-spirited political aspirant. He will pay back in service ten thousand fold, the confidence of the voters.

PINCHOT ON CAMPAIGN FUNDS

In discussing the primary campaign in Pennsylvania and other states, Gifford Pinchot said: "I hope to see before long stringent National laws, followed by State laws, forbidding the use of, or putting a sweeping limit on, campaign funds. The use of money for publicity has grown enormously with the increase in the voting population, until campaigning has gotten beyond the reach of a poor man. He must either be financed by a machine or corporations, or stay out of politics. When I entered the primary I frankly confess I had not counted the cost. I soon found, however, that I must have publicity and reach the voters, and having no long-established organization back of me, and the collection of funds a difficult matter, in order to place myself on an equality with my opponents, or be hopelessly snowed under, I was forced to go into my jeens and 'see it through.'"

HIS POLITICAL VIEWS

On the day that he announced his candidacy for Governor, Gifford Pinchot said to the writer of this article: "I am out after the Republican nomination, and am in no sense an insurgent or independent candidate. I have been called a Progressive, but am proud of the title, which only means a 'progressive Republican,' one who desires to reform the Republican party from within and not encompass its defeat."

GOVERNOR OF ALL THE PEOPLE

"Justice to All" would be a fitting motto for the Pinchot administration, if the people so decide the question that way in November. Surely they will, as they love a fighter, a square deal, and a man who will represent every stage and phase of Pennsylvania citizenship. From the poorest and most obscure to the greatest and most powerful, Gifford Pinchot will be the friend, counsellor, and personal representative, the Governor of All the People.

SCHOOLS

In his memorable address at Lock Haven, Gifford Pinchot said: "My opponents criticize me for not saying openly what I am going to do with the school system of Pennsylvania. The reason for that is, I do not yet know what is best, except that I intend to see that the children of this State receive the best educational advantages in the nation, and the country school districts

will receive the same careful local attention and development as those in larger communities." Gifford Pinchot speaks out strongly for prompt pay for school teachers, also for hospitals, and for every State employe down to the humblest forest fire fighter or state highway workman.

STATE COLLEGE

In June, 1920, while passing through State College with the compiler of this article, Gifford Pinchot said: "This is my ideal of an inland institution of learning. It deserves the support of the entire State, especially because of its broad policy in offering free tuition to the ambitious young students of modest means." These words have been borne out by his speech at "State" on September 29; those in doubt can apply the "deadly parallel." Gifford Pinchot is a loyal rooter for State College and other institutions which are doing a big work and receive State aid. He will see that they get their deserts, when State funds are diverted back from their present wasteful channels.

GOOD ROADS

An ardent horseman, hiker and motorist, Gifford Pinchot has always favored good roads. He took an active part in good roads agitation years ago at the behest of the State Grange, and set things in motion. He expresses himself as determined to complete the State highways as planned, but in a way to place as small a burden on the taxpayers as possible.

PROHIBITION

Gifford Pinchot, speaking at Lock Haven, September 29, said: "My platform on closing the saloons and wiping out bootlegging speaks for itself. I mean every word of it." Colonel Roosevelt, by superhuman effort, once made New York City as dry as the Sahara Desert with the oases drained; Gifford Pinchot can do the same thing in Pennsylvania, if State and National laws so demand.

STAGED A THRILLING COMEBACK

From the days when political avenues seemed closed to him, and newspapers that had landed him, openly criticised him for his loyalty to Denny O'Neil, to the time when he cleaned up and put life into the Forestry Department, placed the only approach to popular government in the Constitutional Convention, devised the committee which is showing the clearest way to re-finance

the State, and is the only man who has won the Republican nomination for Governor without an organization back of him, and without the aid of Philadelphia and Pittsburg—he carried 61 out of the 67 counties, and had a grand complimentary vote in the great cities as well, Gifford Pinchot has shown that he is a fighting American, a figure worthy to be entrusted with any State or National burden. His thrilling comeback into Pennsylvania politics literally bucking centre for a touchdown through a seeming impregnable line of bosses, stamps him as a man of destiny. Take it from one who has studied him at close range, he is a man, a man of genius, a great man, honest, sympathetic, loyal and true.

CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAM

There will be much to do besides cleaning up the mess on the hill. Gifford Pinchot does not intend to emulate Samson and perform constantly tearing down the pillars of the Capitol. He will put across a genuine constructive program, wherein the people will lead and not be led, and the "Pennsylvania Idea" will become a watchword of national progress and government. Gifford Pinchot will build and grow; he never stands still or retrogrades. "Excelsior" would be a good motto for his gait, but he will cross his mountains safely and easily and win the gratitude of all of us.

DANGER OF POLITICAL APATHY

Despite the great issues at stake, such as the so-called mess at Harrisburg, the addled finances of the State, the business and social unrest, strikes, and hard times, the voters have not shown the interest in the present campaign they should. Probably many bosses, already counting their scalps among the sequestered, are not getting out the vote, as the registration days have shown. But it is the November election that counts. Let every man and woman voter honor themselves and Pennsylvania in registering their confidence in our greatest citizen, Gifford Pinchot, by marking a ballot for him on November 7th. Make it the election of elections, by choosing by a tremendous and solid majority the greatest Governor as the successor of a very great Governor, in a line of great Governors; then truly can we rejoice and say: "Pennsylvania, the Keystone, has found herself, has come to her own, is in the vanguard of the solidarity of the States and Nation."

VOTE FOR GIFFORD PINCHOT, NOVEMBER 7TH

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